

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 27, 2006. Claims 4 and 9 are presented for examination, both of which are in independent form. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

In the January 27, 2001 Office Action, Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,170,428 (Watanabe), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,699 (Kawasaki).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 4 and 9 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transfer. The apparatus includes: (1) a memory, arranged to store received image data; (2) a transfer unit, arranged to transfer the received image data stored in the memory; (3) an identification unit, arranged to identify whether or not the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address transfer; and (4) a processor switching to transfer the received image with image information added thereto or to transfer the received data without adding image information in accordance with whether the ring-type multiple-address transfer is performed or not. The transmitter information is added to the received image data as

image data.

Among other notable features of Claim 4 is a processor switching to transfer the received image with image information added thereto or to transfer the received data without adding image information in accordance with whether the ring-type multiple-address transfer is performed or not.

Watanabe relates to a data communication apparatus. Fig. 1 is a diagram for explaining the repeating multiple-address transmission of Watanabe. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a facsimile apparatus as a repeater station for performing the repeating multiple-address transmission; 2 is a facsimile apparatus for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission; 3 is a facsimile apparatus for receiving the repeating data from the facsimile apparatus 1; 4 is a data communication network which is used for only data communication or for the communication of digital data; and 5 is a telephone network which is used for the communication of voice and data.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a facsimile apparatus. Reference numeral 6 denotes a CPU to control the whole apparatus; 7 is an operation unit to input a telephone number and the like; 8 is a read unit to read an original document; 9 is a record unit; 10 is an image memory to store image data upon transmission and reception; 11 is a selection signal transmission unit to the network and a transmission/reception unit of a procedure signal and an image signal; 12 is a detection circuit of a facsimile call signal which is incoming from the data communication network; 13 is a detection circuit of a call signal which is incoming from the telephone network; 14 is a hook detection circuit to detect the state (ON or OFF) of the receiver of a telephone set which is connected to the facsimile apparatus; 15 is a CML relay to switch

between the transmission/reception unit 11 and a main telephone set 16 or among the detection circuits 12 to 14; 16 is the main telephone set; 17 is a circuit; 18 is a ROM in which a control program is stored; 19 is a RAM in which various kinds of telephone numbers of a partner for permitting the repeating multiple-address transmission, repeating multiple-address reception station, and the like are stored; and 20 is a battery to back up the content of the RAM 19.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Watanabe that would teach or suggest “a processor switching to transfer the received image with image information added thereto or to transfer the received data without adding image information in accordance with whether the ring-type multiple-address transfer is performed or not,” as recited in Claim 4.

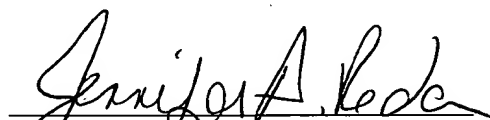
A review of the other art of record, including Kawasaki, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 4.

Independent Claim 9 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 4, and are believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 4.

Early and favorable continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 582966v1